

other minorities in the spheres of education, politics and the labor force.

Albert A. Peña Jr. was born on December 15, 1917, in the city of San Antonio. He attended Tech High School and St. Mary's University prior to serving a commission in the United States Navy. Afterwards, he returned to Texas and obtained a law degree in 1950 from South Texas School of Law in Houston. Shortly thereafter, he joined his family's law firm of Peña, Peña & Peña.

Judge Peña became politically engaged on multiple fronts. In the early stages of his life, his primary concern was advocating for school integration. He fought arduously for this cause by providing pro bono services in numerous suits brought against school districts across South Texas. His efforts resulted in the integration of schools in Lytle, Hondo and Natalia, Texas.

From 1956 to 1972, Judge Peña served as Bexar County Commissioner and, in addition to promoting equity in the field of education, worked tirelessly to protect and defend minority rights. It was during his final tenure as Commissioner when Peña lost a re-election bid in 1972 because he defended the right of Angela Davis, a black Communist Party member and assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, to a fair trial—this at a time when Americans did not approve of those political beliefs. It was a true display of his dedication to safeguarding the liberties of not only Mexican Americans but that of all political and racial minorities.

Judge Peña returned to the world of public service with his appointment as municipal court judge in 1977. As judge, he endorsed a doctrine of equity with the end goal of social justice in mind, a philosophy that guided his actions until he stepped down as presiding municipal court judge in 1992. In addition to his responsibilities as a public official, Judge Peña devoted much of his personal time to the community. He helped found the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Mexican American Unity Council, organized the United Automobile Workers of San Antonio, and presided as the State Chairman of the Political Association for Spanish Speaking Organizations.

On behalf of those influenced by Judge Peña's far reaching efforts, I stand today to applaud this great public servant. Judge Peña's labors are testimony to his life long dedication to the Mexican American Community, the City of San Antonio and its citizens. It is unfortunate he is no longer with us and I mourn his passing. Nonetheless, through commemorating his life's work we can ensure his legacy. Therefore, I urge you all to join me in honoring this great leader.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNUAL SALINE COUNTY FAIR

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend brings the opening of the 100th Annual Saline County Fair in Harrisburg, Illinois. For the past century, the Saline County Fair has served as a community event unlike any other in this southeastern Illinois county. From its agricul-

tural shows, to the popular floral hall, to the first-rate music and entertainment, to the all-American experience of strolling a traditional carnival midway with a corn dog and a lemon shake-up, the Saline County Fair has brought a spirit of community and fun to the residents of Saline County for 100 years.

I want to congratulate Saline County Fair Manager Dennis Wilson, and the fair staff: Allison Wilson, Connie Harbison, Lori Wilson, Brad Henshaw, Marjorie Dotson, George Henley, Mike Williams, Danny Evans, Dwight Mezo, Chris Harbison, Chris Evans, Jane Richey, Jodi Wilson, Darlene Stafford and Rona Littlefield, as well as all the hard working members of the Saline County 4-H, the University of Illinois Extension, the Town and Country Lions Club, the exhibitors, the contestants, the vendors, the sponsors and the good people of southeastern Illinois who have made the Saline County Fair such a great event over the past century, and I wish them another hundred years of success.

#### TRIBUTE TO JEAN HULL

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in acknowledgment of the extreme generosity of one of my constituents. I wish to recognize the kindness of Jean Hull from Marble Rock, Iowa; a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Recently, Mrs. Hull and her veteran husband purchased an expensive electric chair. It is with sadness that I say Mr. Hull died shortly thereafter. Instead of returning the chair valued at \$6,000, Mrs. Hull kindly and unselfishly donated the chair to the Iowa Veterans Home in honor of her late husband.

This thoughtful and selfless act deserves honoring, and thus I stand today and recognize the act of Mrs. Jean Hull.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THALIA DONDERO

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Thalia Dondero, for her outstanding service to the Southern Nevada community. She will be awarded the Public Education Foundation's Education Hero Award on September 16, 2006.

Thalia moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1942, and a few years later met and married her husband Harvey, a Las Vegas High School teacher. The newly married couple relocated to Carson City, Nevada in 1946 when Harvey went to work for the United States Office of Education.

In 1948, Thalia and her husband moved back to Las Vegas and she began her involvement in public education at the Mayfield Grade School. She was also active in the Service League, served as director of the Las Vegas Girl Scouts, and was appointed to the Nevada State Parks Commission.

Thalia was elected to the Clark County Commission in 1974 and served for 20 years,

and was the first female Commissioner. During her tenure at the Commission, she served as Chairperson three times, and made the news when she refused to act as the secretary for the male members.

Her public service continued in 1996, when she was elected to the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, where she fought to improve the education system in Southern Nevada. Thalia has served one term as Board vice chair and two terms as chair. Currently, she is chair of the Investment Committee and serves on several others.

Thalia continues to be a giving public servant and a true patron of education. She has been appointed to many committees and boards that help serve the community of Southern Nevada. Thalia and her husband have given a great deal to the community and are invaluable residents of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Thalia Dondero on the floor of the House. I commend her for her contributions to Southern Nevada and thank her for her continued service to our education system.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LATE JUDGE JAMES DEANDA

#### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Nation mourns the passing of WWII veteran and legal giant, retired U.S. District Judge James deAnda, who died on Thursday, September 7, 2006 at the age of 81. His life-long dedication to the protection of Americans has made him an icon in the legal profession and a pioneer of the American civil rights movement.

Born in Houston, Texas to parents who immigrated from Mexico, Judge deAnda was one of the first Mexican American attorneys to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court. In arguing *Hernandez v. Texas*, a companion case to *Brown v. Board of Education*, before the Court in 1954, Judge deAnda earned a major victory for all Americans when the Court voted to overturn an all-white jury's conviction of a Mexican-American defendant. The Supreme Court held that prejudice and discrimination against Mexican Americans in Texas was so pervasive that the conviction had not been determined by a jury of his peers.

In 1968, deAnda again went before the Supreme Court in the case of *Cisneros v. Corpus Christi ISD*. This case led to the desegregation and increased funding of schools in that city. That same year, he co-founded the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF, which continues to serve as a legal advocate for the Hispanic community and as a promoter of Hispanic empowerment.

In 1979, after decades of practicing law, Judge deAnda received an appointment from former President Jimmy Carter to serve as a federal judge in the Southern District of Texas; he was subsequently confirmed and became the nation's second Mexican-American federal district judge.

Remarking upon the passing of a MALDEF co-founder, current MALDEF interim President and General Counsel John Trasviña noted, "Judge deAnda was a treasure of immense

proportion to Texas, Mexican-Americans everywhere, and to the United States. In dangerous and difficult times, he and other Mexican American lawyers worked tirelessly to defend our communities' interests. We are all in his debt."

Judge deAnda is indeed an inspiration to the Hispanic and non-Hispanic community, and a positive example to the many who will continue to stand on his shoulders for generations to come.

#### HONORING BOY SCOUT TROOP 85 ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop 85 in Moweaqua, Illinois on 50 years of service and success. On Saturday, August 12, 2006, the troop celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Over the past 50 years Boy Scout Troop 85 has produced 69 Eagle Scouts. Among former members are the two doctors in Moweaqua, a career military officer, preacher, lawyer, dentist and many other outstanding members of the workforce.

The scouts of Troop 85 work hard each year and participate in many hours of community service. They annually conduct a food drive for the Moweaqua Food Pantry and assist the Rotary Club in recycling efforts.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Boy Scout Troop 85 on 50 years of success. I wish them all the best in the years to come.

#### RECOGNITION OF OSAGE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a distinguished citizen and constituent. More specifically, it is my pleasure to announce the nomination of Ms. Claire Schoenborn, of Osage, Iowa, by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278 for Member of the Year.

Ms. Schoenborn is a vital member of the community in Osage, Iowa. The widow of a World War II veteran, she has repeatedly demonstrated her dedication to volunteerism and community service. Ms. Schoenborn is able to spread joy and brighten lives in many ways.

As a cancer survivor, Ms. Schoenborn is actively involved in the Mitchell County Relay for Life and the Home Trust Helping Hands Team fundraising efforts. She is also a member of the Association for Retarded Citizens, and until recently, an important volunteer in the Bridges Mentoring Program. Perhaps the most valuable part of Ms. Schoenborn's community service services is her dedication to visiting the elderly, the ill and the shut-ins.

And so today I rise to recognize Ms. Claire Schoenborn for her commitment to the betterment of the community and I congratulate Ms.

Schoenborn on her nomination for Member of the Year by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278. May Ms. Schoenborn continue to serve her community for many years."

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PIERRE AND PAM OMDIYAR

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pierre and Pam Omidyar for their innovative philanthropic work.

Pierre Omidyar graduated from Tufts University in 1988, with a degree in Computer Science. After graduating college, Pierre began working as a software engineer for Claris, a subsidiary of the Apple Computer Company. He co-founded Ink Development Corp. which was later acquired by Microsoft. Shortly thereafter, at just 28 years old, Pierre created the website that would become eBay.

Pam Omidyar graduated from Tufts University in 1988, with a degree in Biology. She earned a Masters in Molecular Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz and much of her early career was spent in laboratory research. Throughout her life, Pam has been devoted to bettering the world around her. She has committed herself to several causes, but is most passionate about helping alleviate chronic illness in children. She is the founder of HopeLab, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting scientific research that will help improve the quality of life for those who suffer from chronic illnesses.

The intense financial success with eBay prompted Pierre and his wife Pam to find ways to give back to society. After moving to Henderson, Nevada, Pierre and Pam Omidyar converted their family foundation to the Omidyar Network. The Omidyar Network takes a very novel approach to charitable giving. Unlike most organizations of its kind, the Omidyar Network is founded on the principles of microfinance and has the ability to fund nonprofit, for-profit and public policy efforts. The mission of the Omidyar Network is to "enable individual self-empowerment on a global scale," and "to employ business as a tool for social good." As a result of this outstanding network, countless people and organizations have received the tools necessary to cultivate economic growth, self-sufficiency and community enrichment.

Pierre and Pam Omidyar remain actively involved with their alma mater, Tufts University, as well as several other organizations that strive to benefit society. To further accomplish the goals of the Omidyar Network, the Omidyar's recently donated 100 million dollars to Tufts University to launch the Omidyar-Tufts Microfinance Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Pierre and Pam Omidyar for their compassion and sincere desire to improve the world around them. Their innovative approach has made a difference in many lives and I wish them well in their continued endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE POWER OF THE BILLBOARD

#### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2006*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, at times, invention is born from tragic circumstances, and, as the saying goes, out of necessity.

In the summer of 2002, a Kansas man named Roger Kemp experienced a brutally searing loss. His daughter Ali, 19, was attacked and killed at her place of work. She had just finished her freshman year at Kansas State University—with a bright future—and was working at the neighborhood pool in Leawood, Kansas. Her father, Roger, found her body in the pump room at the pool.

Determined to find the person who killed his daughter, Mr. Kemp came up with an idea while driving to work: display "wanted" information on a billboard.

When Roger Kemp described his idea to Lamar Advertising Company, the company declined to take his money, but agreed to help by donating billboard space. "Wanted" billboards featured a composite sketch of a suspect, along with a phone number for anonymous tips to police. It took nearly 2 years, but a tip in response to the billboards helped police apprehend the man (in 2004) accused of killing Ali Kemp.

With encouragement from Roger Kemp, police in the Kansas City area began using billboards to resolve other murder cases. To date, at least 8 murder suspects have been apprehended from tips prompted by "wanted" billboards, donated as a public service.

The success of billboards in Kansas City drew the attention of John Walsh and his TV program, "America's Most Wanted." Since May of 2005, John Walsh has been using donated billboards to help police find fugitives, in conjunction with his TV show, Internet site, and radio program. John Walsh, who knows a great deal about capturing fugitives, says billboards are effective as a crime-fighting tool because they are ever-present and generate quality anonymous tips.

Meanwhile, the concept that Roger Kemp pioneered in Kansas City is spreading across America, to communities large and small.

After a jail break in Yakima County, WA, on November 25, 2005, several inmates were caught quickly. Two who remained on the run were shown on a billboard and were in custody the next month.

In Tennessee, an accused child molester fled in February of this year after cutting off the electronic monitoring device on his ankle. For the first time, Nashville Metro Police used billboards to help find a fugitive; the suspect was arrested on July 19. Two of the five "wanted" billboards in Nashville were innovative digital billboards, featuring a static computer-generated image.

In July, an outdoor advertising company donated billboards in the Phoenix area as part of the effort to help police stop serial crimes; authorities arrested a suspect in the "Baseline Killer" case very recently.

In a sense, "wanted" posters are part of American history, from the days of Jesse James to the "wanted" pictures I saw at the Post Office growing up in Chisholm, MN. The success story of "wanted" billboards serves to